

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06475 120511Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 /017 W  
-----131005Z 043046 /14

R 111346Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7245  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC, PINT, UR  
SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: (CU/ARTS) NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND

1. THE DIRT BAND COMPLETED ITS PERFORMANCE IN YEREVAN YESTERDAY, MAY 10, ITS LAST CONCERT ONLY MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE A TEAR GAS CONTAINER THROWN OVER THE STADIUM WALL DURING THE BAND'S FIRST ENCOURE. AS THE BAND PLAYED ON TO THE SHOUTS AND APPLAUSE OF APPROXIMATELY 5700 CRAMMED INTO A BICYCLE STADIUM BUILT FOR 4000, POLICE MOVED ABOUT 500 SPECTATORS FROM THE IMMEDIATE AREA, THREW A CANVAS OVER THE SMOKING CONTAINER AND SOON MOVED OFF WITH ALL EVIDENCE OF THE INCIDENT. A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS APPREHENDED AS THE CULPRIT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL POLICE.

2. LOCAL OFFICIALS APOLOGIZED FOR THE INCIDENT TO US OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING THE BAND, AND TO THE BAND. POLICE SAID THE BOY HOPED TO CREATE A DISTURBANCE WHICH WOULD DISTRACT THE POLICE GUARDING THE STADIUM ENTRANCES, THUS ALLOWING HIS FRIENDS TO CRASH THE GATE. AN ESTIMATED 15,000 PEOPLE, MOSTLY YOUTHS, ROAMED THE PERIPHERY OF THE STADIUM THROUGHOUT THE CONCERT, HOOTING AND HOLLERING AND, ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS PRIOR TO THE TEAR-GAS INCIDENT, THROWING SLOW-BURNING FLARES OVER THE STADIUM WALL ONTO THE INFIELD.

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3. THROUGHOUT ALL, THE AUDIENCE INSIDE THE STADIUM WAS WELL BEHAVED. NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS BEEN SEEN IN YEREVAN IN YEARS, LOCAL CONTACTS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICIALS WITH THE BAND, AS THEY PRAISED THE BAND'S ARTISTRY AND GENEROSITY WITH THE AUDIENCES.

4. AS FOR THE STADIUM SECURITY, POLICE AND LOCAL GOSKONCERT OFFICIALS, THEY HOPED THAT THE AMERICANS "WOULD NOT THINK THE

INCIDENT IS IN ANY WAY DIRECTED AT OUR RELATIONS". THE PEOPLE OF YEREVAN ARE SIMPLY EXPLOSIVE FOLKS, EMBOFFS WERE TOLD: "COME AND VISIT US WHEN THERE IS A BIG FOOTBALL GAME, REAL BOMBS GO OFF, ESPECIALLY WHEN YEREVAN AND RUSSIAN TEAMS PLAY."

5. THOUGH SHIPLER OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, WILLIS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR AND JONES OF ABC WERE IN YEREVAN, NONE ATTENDED THE EVENING CONCERT OF MAY 10. ALL HAD ATTENDED EARLIER CONCERTS AND WERE GOING TO FILE STORIES ON THE BAND.

6. ASK USIA FOR USINFO SUMMARIES OF ANY US PRESS COMMENT. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MUSIC, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS  
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**Subject:** CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: (CU/ARTS) NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND  
**TAGS:** OEXC, PINT, SCUL, UR, US, NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND  
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